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COAL, GAS, AND PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SATELLITES

WIREK COAL FIELD IN POLAND -- Paris, L'Echo des Mines et de la Metallurgie,
 Sep 53

At the Wirek coal field at Kochlowice, formerly considered almost exhausted, geologists have discovered new veins between 700 and 900 meters below the surface. New shafts have been sunk and the new Wirek mine will begin to produce toward the end of 1953. Its capacity will be double that of the old Wirek mine and its equipment will include a traveling crane for surface transportation. Underground transportation will be entirely mechanized. New mining methods will decrease earth subsidence, which is common elsewhere in the Dabrowa coal basin.

DEVELOPMENT OF KOMLO MINES IN HUNGARY -- Paris, L'Echo des Mines et de la Metallurgie, Sep 53

Production at the Komlo coal mines will be tripled before the end of 1953. A cutting face 18 kilometers long will be opened in 1953, two shafts will be put into operation, and two others, 900 meters deep, are now being sunk. The old shafts have been modernized and mechanized through the installation of Hungarian and Soviet conveyer belts, electric locomotives, and other equipment. A tunnel 3 kilometers long has been bored to provide for the transport of coal by train. On the surface, sorting is performed in a large building 50 meters high. A wash-room and locker building for 4,800 miners was recently completed.

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FUEL SUBSTITUTE PRODUCED IN HUNGARY -- Algiers, Alger Republicain, 6 Jan 54

A substitute fuel for locomotives has been in production in Hungary since December 1953. The current output is 150 tons per day. The fuel is a mixture of peat, low-grade coal, and residues of fuel oil from refineries. Initial tests showed that the new product is as good as the best grade of coal used for firing locomotive boilers. The process was developed by Gyorgy Sipos 25 years ago, but it was not until autumn 1953 that the Hungarian Ministry of Transportation consulted Sipos and allocated 45 million [French] francs to begin production.

NATURAL GAS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA -- Paris, Chimie et Industrie, Nov 53

The use of natural gas in Czechoslovakia has increased greatly since World War II. The petroleum refineries at Hodonin distribute it to industry and to people's collectives for heating purposes. Some wells deliver 100,000 cubic meters daily, containing an average of 98 percent methane. The heat value of the gas varies between 8,000 and 11,000 calories per cubic meter, but is standardized to uniform caloric content before distribution.

It is expected that the gas will be useful for the manufacture of nylon fibers and for conversion into acetylene, toluene, aviation gasoline, methyl alcohol, acetone, chloroform, and formaldehyde.

YUGOSLAV NATURAL GAS EXPLOITATION -- The Hague, Economische Voorlichting, 30 Oct 53

A start has been made toward the exploitation of natural gas at the oil field near the city of Velika Greda in the Banat. The newly installed compressor installation has a yearly capacity of 5 million cubic meters of gas. The gas is compressed into bottles, some of which are used on the railroads for lighting.

PETROLEUM PROSPECTING IN BULGARIA -- Paris, La Revue Petroliere, Nov 52

It has been announced that petroleum has been discovered in the Tutrahan region [Ruse Okrug] of Bulgaria, near the Rumanian frontier. Two thousand workmen were hired in 1952 to prospect for petroleum in Bulgaria, drilling to a depth of 1,525 meters.

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